

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Yes. As a consumer that has already modified my Personal Video Recorder, but never shared a video file with anyone else, it is clear that the "broadcast flag" has potential to interfere with personal use that falls within the bounds of today's fair use regulations.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

Yes. Same as Q1

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Yes

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Yes

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Cost is not the issue. Multipliers are so high that a reasonable R&D effort need only add a few cents to individual devices. Usage rights are the issue.

Other Comments:

Business models for content origination and distribution must change as technology changes. There have been fights regarding Radio, Home Videotape, etc. However, this process occuring early in the new millenium seems to focus stronly on silencing individuals who want to use content fairly. As an originator of intellectual property (magazine editor and author) I understand the requirement for boundaries surrounding use. I cannot support technologies that have the effect of stopping (or making more difficult) my individual and legal usage yet fail to stop anyone engaged in serious large scale piracy. Macrovision was bad enough; let's not spend time and energy on yet another technology that hurts individuals and does little to stop abusers.